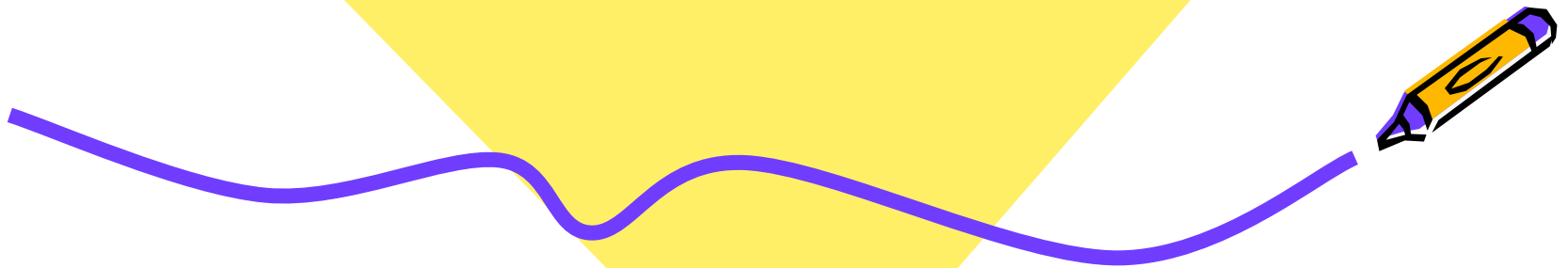




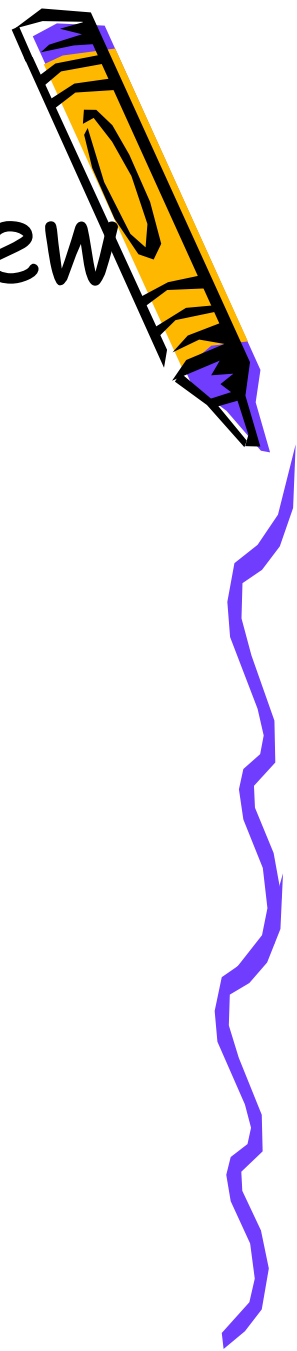
Collaborative Leadership: Working with Parents


Dr. Kristen Pennycuff Trent



Chapter Seven Overview

- Leadership in Parent Education
- Group Discussions
- Technology
- Group Roles
- Productive Groups
- Meetings





Communication and collaboration is promoted when teachers value the input of parents and families and respect their culture.

-Riojas-Cortez & Flores (2009)



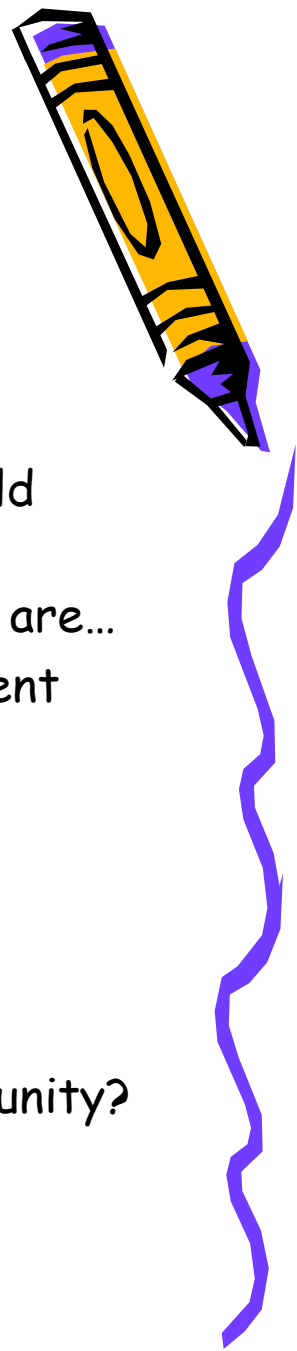
Leadership in Parent Education

- Ranges from nonprofessional with little training to trained professionals
 - Unstructured meetings with no goals, curriculum or trained leader
 - Meetings led by lay leaders to get comments, solve a problem, study an issue, or become better acquainted.
 - Meetings led by lay leaders who follow a curriculum devised by professionals
 - Active Parenting, Parent Effectiveness Training (PET), and Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)
 - Meetings called by a parent or professional that involve members and respond to their concerns with professional support.
 - Principal leads and involves members of committee, leads them to decision with majority vote
 - Meetings called and led by a professional with participation by lay members
 - Meetings called, led, directed, and controlled by the professional with members of the audience as observers only

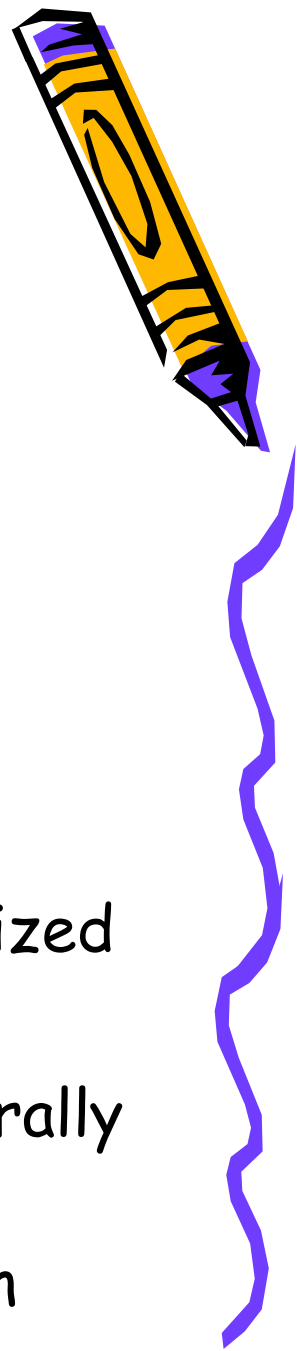


Needs Assessment

- Interest finders
- Brainstorming sessions
 - My greatest concerns are...
 - My greatest happiness comes from...
 - If I could eliminate one problem from my home it would be...
 - Questions that concern me about my child's education are...
 - Questions that concern me about my child's development are...
 - As a parent, I hope to be...
- Open Ended Questions
 - What do I want to know about my school?
 - What do I want to know about my community?
 - What would I like to do about my school and/or community?
- Questionnaires
- Question Box
- Development of Objectives



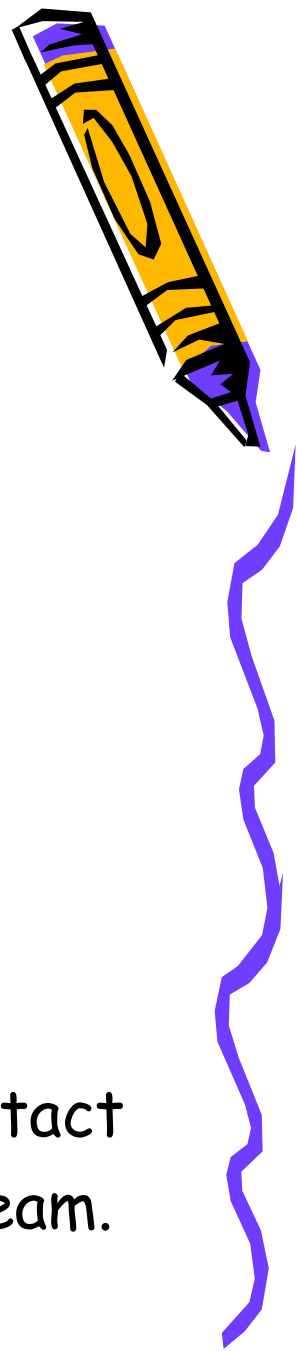
How Parents Learn Best



- Families will be more apt to be involved when:
 - There is a positive climate
 - Culture and language is respected
 - Risk is eliminated
 - Their possible contributions are recognized
 - They are involved in their own education
 - Curriculum addresses concerns and is culturally relevant
 - They discover need for change on their own



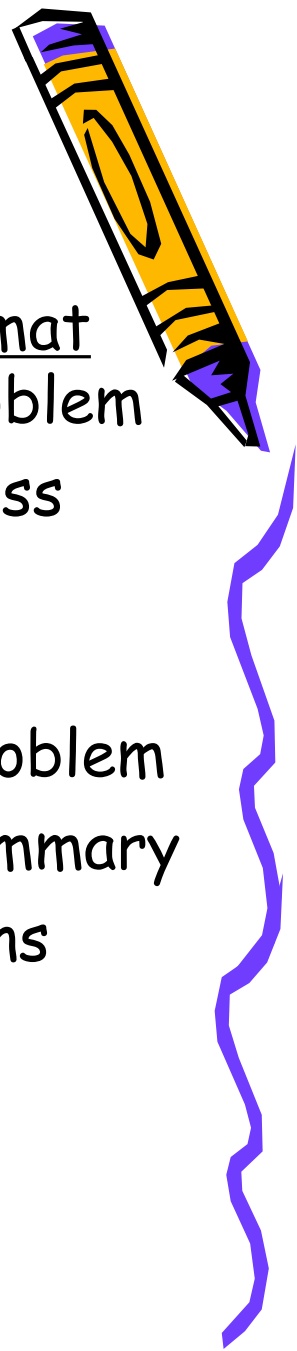
How Parents Learn Best (cont.)



- Families will be more apt to be involved when:
 - Respect and encouragement are present.
 - Real situations and analogies are used
 - Positive feedback is used.
 - Different approaches are used
 - Different sensory approaches are used
 - Continued learning beyond the personal contact
 - Considered part of the learning-teaching team.



Group Discussion Format Examples



Informal Discussion Plan

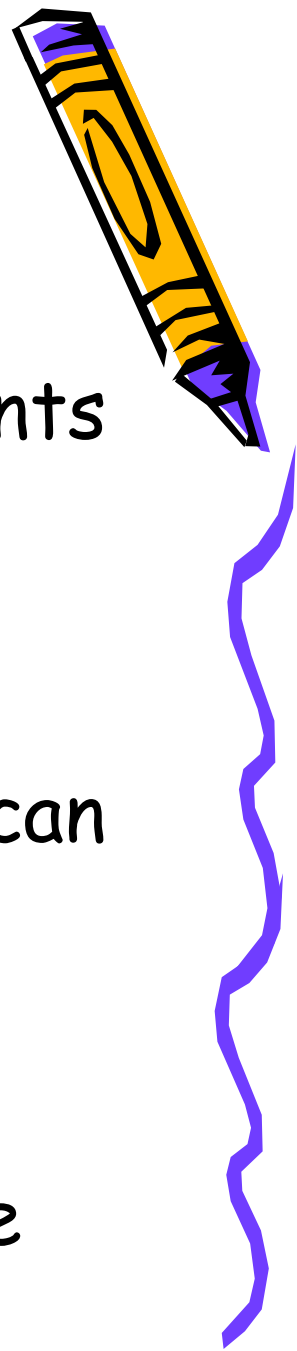
- Stems from group interest/need
- Goals and objectives established
- Provide for informal meeting
- Selects and analyzes relevant information discussed
- Outlines a plan of action, if desired



Problem Solving Format

- Recognition of Problem
- Understand/Discuss nature of problem
- Data Collection
- Analysis of the Problem
- Conclusion and Summary
- Appropriate actions

Using Technology



- The internet allows for virtual communication among teachers, parents and students.
- Benefits of some forms of virtual communication include flexible scheduling and meeting place, these can be great options for families with complex schedules or live far from school



Virtual communication options include Email and Web Sites

Establishing a Positive Atmosphere

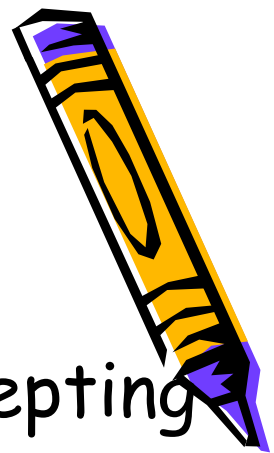
- Icebreakers can create a warm and accepting atmosphere conducive to participation

- As group is gathering:

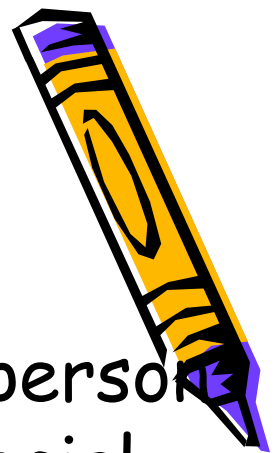
- Signature sheets
- Bingo Cards
- Who Am I?
- Scrambled Name Tags

- After seating:

- Dyad Introductions
- I've Got a Secret



Group Roles



- Role: the behavior characteristic of a person occupying a particular position in the social system, influences actions of other person and expectations of others toward that person.
- Understanding group roles prior to meeting can help members not fall into dysfunctional roles.

Leaders can help alter member roles during a meeting to encourage effective participation



Role Descriptions



- Task Oriented Roles - initiate and keep the group discussion meaningful and ongoing
 - Initiator-leader, Facilitator, Information giver, Information seeker, Clarifier, Orientator, Questioner, Asserter, Energizer, Elaborator, Opinion giver, Opinion seeker, summarizer
- Group-Building and Maintenance Roles - develop and maintain the existence and quality of the group
 - Encourager, Harmonizer, Listener, Follower, Tension Beaker, Compromiser, Standard setter, Observer, Recorder, Gatekeeper
- Dysfunctional Roles - interfere with achieving group goals.
 - Dominator, Aggressor, Challenger, Negativist, Flirtatious, Blocker, Competitor, Recognition seeker, Deserter



Productive Groups



- Members listen and pay attention to one another.
- Members discuss the subject at hand.
- Everyone's ideas and suggestions are welcomed.
- Everyone has a chance to state his or her views.
- The group uses its agenda as a guide for discussion.
- One or two members are appointed to summarize the discussion and to see that everyone has had a chance to speak.
- Members know and use problem-solving steps.
- Members are clear about group decisions and committed to them (MSU Extension, 1999).



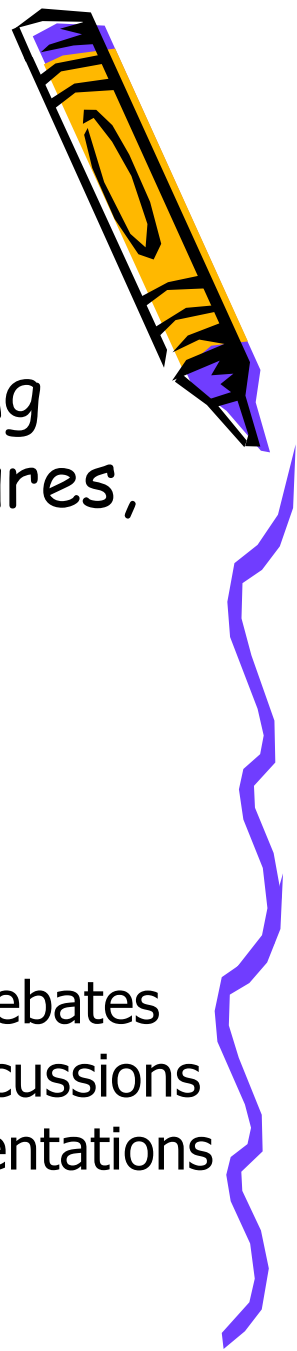
Less-Productive Groups



- Members do not listen and everyone tends to talk at the same time.
 - The discussion jumps from one idea to another.
 - Some members' ideas don't seem to count, so they feel that they don't belong.
 - One or two members do all the talking.
 - The agenda is not clear, and there is no written guide for discussion.
 - No one summarizes or checks to see if everyone who wants to speak has actually spoken.
- Discussions go on and on until people get tired.



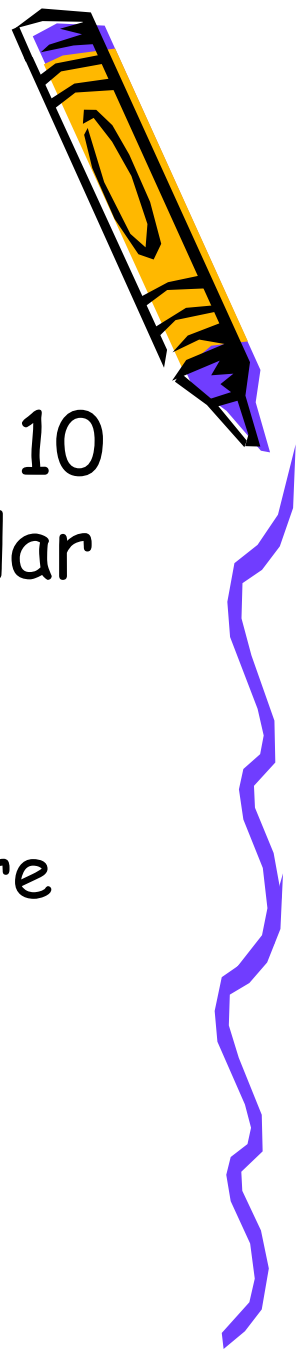
Arrangements for Meetings



- Depending on meeting type, pre-meeting arrangements, set-up, meeting procedures, and appropriate topic will vary.
- Parent meeting types include:
 - Round Table
 - Concentric Circles
 - Buzz Sessions
 - Brainstorming sessions
 - Workshops and Centers
 - Observations/field trips
 - Dyad/Triad Interaction and Feedback
 - Role Playing
 - Dramatizations
 - Panels
 - Colloquies and Debates
 - Book Review Discussions
 - Audiovisual Presentations
 - Symposiums
 - Lectures



Your Turn



- Working with your group, create a 10 minute demonstration of a particular type of meeting arrangement.
 - Involve all class members
 - Brief overview of setup and procedure
 - Appropriate topics

